

Town of Rowe – FY2012
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Wednesday, February 29, 2012 – 6:00pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Abbott at 6:06pm.

Present: Chairman Noel Abbott and Selectmen Paul McLatchy III and Bob Clancy

Also Present: Fire Chief Paul McLatchy Jr and Emergency Management Director and FD Administrator Ed May

Fire Dept/EMD:

- **FY2013 Budget:** Reviewed and taken under advisement at this time.
- **CIP items:**
 - 1) Thermal Imaging Camera: Replace in FY13. Ed to get better estimate—probably about \$10K.
 - 2) Rope Rescue Equipment—move to FY2014
- **Officers:** Two vacancies. Fire Chief plans to fill these.
- **Stipends:** FY13 budget has stipend increases for Fire Chief, officers and Administrator. Leave in budget as is for now—will address later.
- **New Keypad Entry:** Ms. Miller will contact a vendor to obtain an estimate for the installation of a keypad entry for the front door of Fire Station
- **FD Generator:** Unit is tested weekly; always starts without problems. Needs a new timer (\$300) and the manifold needs repair. Ed May expects that it should last another 10 years. It is serviced annually. He was asked to obtain a quote on a new generator.
- **Station Tour:** Noel Abbott and Paul McLatchy III will tour the station with Fire Chief McLatchy in the next week or two.
- **Grants:** Ed May reported that there have been no fire service grants for the last 3-4 years. FEMA grants are generally regional grants. Have applied twice, and been turned down, for grant to purchase Municipal Center generator.

Retired Treadmill: Ms. Miller reported that although the Fitness Room injury case is closed, she was informed by our insurance provider that the town must retain for 2 more years the treadmill involved in the matter. Although the case is closed, it can legally be re-opened for up to 3 years following date of injury (April 2011). It is currently in the 2nd floor lobby. Ms. Miller will speak with DPW Supt. Taylor about a site to store the item.

MLP FY2013 Budget: Noel Abbott reported that the budget was reduced to \$900 (Travel \$500, DPW connection \$400). The \$400 for marketing/fundraising was eliminated, as municipalities cannot fund raise. Ms. Miller questioned if the MLP is actually a town department under the Selectmen, or if it is its own entity (similar to a Fire or Water District). This will be researched further.

Police: Chairman Abbott reported that work continues on the MIRCS/CJIS systems. A date for training in Shelburne is being set up.

Public Water Supply Response: Ms. Miller reported that the only item outstanding in the town's response to the DEP review of the town's public water supplies is the creation of a distribution map. She is working on the map with DPW Supt. Taylor—it should be completed in the next week or two.

School Matter: Chairman Abbott reported that they are trying to form a small group to work out the tuition agreement matter between the Town of Rowe and the eight member towns of the Mohawk School District.

Audit: Chairman Abbott reported that Jo Sarnelli cannot complete her work until she meets with Scott Sawyer. She is scheduled to meet with him on March 12th. He had also heard that some people were concerned that the report would not be public. He stated that it will be a public document. This information is also in the March *Goal Post* which was mailed yesterday.

Depot Street Bridge: Ms. Miller reported that she had heard from the Monroe Town Hall that MassDOT is preparing a TIGER grant application to have the bridge replaced.

Veterans Service Office: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to request to join the Central Franklin County District of the Dept. of Veteran Services. Ms. Miller will draft a letter for the Selectboard's signature requesting that the Town of Rowe join the district. The only question—when will this be effective—immediately, or July 1st? Ms. Miller will contact current VSO David Scrivens to see if he would like to continue in the position until June 30th, or if he would like to step down now.

Ed May Fete: The date/time for the retirement party will be Saturday, June 23rd at 2pm. Readsboro Lions Club will cater a chicken barbeque dinner with tickets \$12.00 each (1/2 chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, sour cream, roll & butter). The town will provide dessert and beverages. Ms. Miller will make up the tickets.

Tower Clock: Ms. Miller suggested a photo cell be installed for the tower clock lights rather than running an extension cord in the attic. Jim Taylor is getting a quote from Jerry Ferguson. Chairman Abbott asked that other electricians be asked to submit quotes as well.

OML Complaint: Copies of letters of acknowledgement to complainant Lisa Danek Burke from the Attorney General's Office dated Feb 22nd and Feb 24th were received. No action required by BOS.

Workplace Injury: Ms. Miller reported that Park Ranger Sean Loomis injured his thumb on today (Wednesday, February 29th). He had cut his left thumb (through his fingernail) when using a band saw at the DPW garage while working on Park equipment repair. He was seen/treated by town nurse Sheila Litchfield. No further medical attention was warranted and he returned to work. Ms. Miller filed appropriate injury report with MIIA. The town nurse re-dressed his thumb today, and it appears to be healing well. Mr. Loomis will follow up with her a third time.

Complaint of Barking/Vicious Dog: A complaint was received from resident Gail May of 22 Potter Road stating that she had been bitten on February 18, 2012, by a dog owned by Michael & Rebecca Bradley of 51 Middletown Hill Road. She states that she has contacted both Mr. & Mrs. Bradley in the past concerning their dog chasing and jumping on her [when she walks past their house]. She also states that they do not restrain their dog. The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to issue an *Order of Investigation and Report* to Dog Officer Russ Powers to investigate this complaint and report his findings to the Selectboard. Chairman Abbott asked that Ms. Miller ask Mr. Powers to legibly complete the investigation report, as the last report he submitted was illegible.

Audit Committee Letter to AGO in Anticipation of Complaint: Copy of letter to Attorney General's Office from Audit Committee dated February 23, 2012, was received by Selectboard. Letter concerns an unposted meeting the Audit Committee held on February 21st at 10am with Josephine Sarnelli at the Town Hall. The Selectmen took no action on the letter.

Rowe Hires Independent Auditor Article in Greenfield Recorder: An article appeared in the Feb 28th Greenfield Recorder about the Town of Rowe hiring an auditor to study the town's financial systems and recommend improvements. Marilyn Wilson (present at this evening's meeting) explained that she provided the information for the article after being contacted by the Recorder. She stated that she felt it was better to give them a statement because "if you don't give them anything, then they make something up."

Assessors Request to Use Town Counsel: The Board of Assessors requested permission to use town counsel for a potential ATB (Appellate Tax Board) matter. The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to approve the Board of Assessors use of town counsel related to possible ATB filings.

AGO Approval of New Solar Bylaw: Correspondence was received from the Attorney General's Office stating that they approved the recent Solar bylaw passed at the November 16, 2011, special town meeting, but asked that the town have town counsel ensure that the new bylaw does not impinge on c.40A, Sec 3. Ms. Miller will forward the AGO's letter to town counsel Joel Bard for disposition.

Old Home Day: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to appoint the following persons to the Old Home Day Committee: Jennifer Morse Sprague, Sean Loomis, Christine Tower, John Magnago and Jodi Brown.

Lost Check: Chairman Abbott stated that he had mailed a recent reimbursement check from the Town of Rowe (ck# 38043 for \$380.43 dated Feb 3, 2012) to his credit union, but the check was never received. Town Accountant Miller did ascertain that as of today the check has not cleared the town's bank account. A stop payment is being put on the check, and a replacement check is being issued. The stop payment fee is \$27. The question is should Mr. Abbott reimburse the town for the \$27 stop payment fee? Messrs. McLatchy and Clancy stated that Mr. Abbott would not have to reimburse the \$27 as he was not the one that lost the check. Mr. Abbott will speak with Post Office employee Tiffany Veber about the lost piece of mail.

Tax Refunds: The following refunds/exemptions were unanimously approved by the Selectboard (3/0):

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Senior Real Estate Exemptions: | \$1,335.10 |
| • Personal Property refunds (property <\$10,000): | \$ 102.28 |
| • MV Refund – Loss Due to Fire: | \$ 20.94 |
| • MV Refund – Traded Vehicle: | \$ 61.87 |

FY2013 CDBG Funds: Notice was received from the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA) that the Town of Rowe may be eligible to apply for FY2013 MA Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). One item these funds might be used for would be at the Gracy House to gain public access to the 2nd floor. This matter was tabled to the next meeting.

Treasurer Bond Renewal: Table to next meeting

Selectmen's 2011 Annual Report: Tabled to next meeting.

Warrants: Payroll Warrant #18 and Treasury Warrant #19 were unanimously (3/0) approved for payment.

Adjournment: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen B. Miller
Town Coordinator

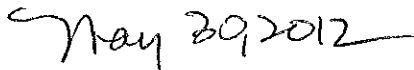
Approved:



Noel R. Abbott, Chairman



Paul McLatchy III



Date Approved

Robert J. Clancy

Attachments:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Agenda | • Greenfield Recorder Feb 28 th article re hiring of auditor |
| • Fire Dept proposed FY2013 budget | • BOA request to use town counsel for potential ATB matter |
| • MLP revised FY2013 budget | • AGO approval of new solar bylaw |
| • AGO letters of acknowledgement of OML complaint | • Tax refunds |
| • Complaint of Vicous/Barking Dog | • FY2013 CDBG funds notification |
| • Audit Comm letter to AGO in anticipation of complaint of OML violation | |